

The **Augusta** Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Volume 19, Number 12

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December, 2019

Our next meeting is Thurs, December 19, 2019 at 6:30 PM, pre Christmas Dinner Party

What Happened regarding US coinage 65 years ago?

Club Meeting Calendar for 2019

Jan. 17	May 16	Sep. 19
Feb. 21	June 20	Oct. 17
Mar. 21	July 18	Nov. 21
Apr. 18	Aug. 15	Dec. 19

San Francisco Mint begins its “Farewell!”



A 1954-S Franklin half-dollar grading MS-64 (not quite full bell lines)



A 1954-S Washington quarter grading MS-63 (with a little spotting)



A 1954-S Jefferson nickel grading MS-62, almost full steps

In 1954, the San Francisco Mint struck the half-dollar, quarter and nickel denominations as business strikes for the last time. In 1955, it was the dime and the cent's turn. The San Francisco Mint began to issue cents for circulation again in 1968 but only through 1974. Between 1971 and 1978 the 40% silver “Ike dollars” were struck as business strikes and proofs as were the reduced size 1979-81 Susan B. Anthony clad dollars.

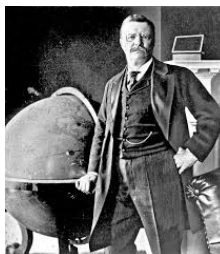
Collecting the US coins of 1904: 115 Years ago

(Excluding Gold) By Arno Safran



The obverses of a US certified BU 1904 Year set \$1.00, 50c & 25c over 10c, 5c & 1c

America was coming out of the horse and buggy era 115 years ago and into the age of electricity, the telephone and the motor car but our coinage designs still represented the classical age where the depiction of Liberty and Native Americans on our coins and paper money were more in tune with the cultural values of the past. President Theodore Roosevelt wanted to see a more modern approach to our coins but that change was a few years off.



Theodore Roosevelt

While the 1904 mintages were slightly lower than the preceding year, a person of modest means should be able to acquire a complete year set (*excluding gold*) in the higher circulated grades up through the uncirculated averaging MS-64 especially from the Philadelphia Mint and depending on their discretionary income as most denominations are affordable with the exception the 1904-S dime, half-dollar and Morgan \$1.00.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting the US coins of 1904 (Excluding Gold)

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



**The reverses of a US certified BU 1904 Year set
\$1.00, 50c & 25c over 10c, 5c & 1c**

During this period, our coins were being struck at three US Mints; at Philadelphia, tNew Orleans Mint and San Francisco. The Carson City mint--which opened its doors in 1870--struck its last coins in 1893 producing a number of rarities along the way. Throughout the era of Barber coinage the Philadelphia Mint usually struck the largest mintages followed by the New Orleans and San Francisco mints although there were exceptions and 1904 was one of them as no quarters were struck at San Francisco Mint and no dimes were made at the New Orleans facility. Both the cent and five cent nickel denominations were struck only at the Philadelphia mint during this era with the exception of the cent in 1908 and 1909 and the nickel in 1912 when branch mints entered the fray.



A 1904 Indian head cent certified MS-64 Red by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1904, over 63 million Indian Head cents were struck, the fourth largest output in the denomination's history up to that time, so, while the certified grade of choice is MS-64 Red-Brown for copper coins due to its more moderate price range and better eye appeal than a MS-65 Brown specimen, obtaining one certified MS-64-Red by PCGS was easily attainable and relatively inexpensive for that particular date.

Many collectors take the Indian head cent design type for granted because most dates from 1880 on are more affordable than all of the other US obsolete type coins from that period. However, it should be noted that it was Chief Engraver James Barton Longacre's most popular coin design due to its historic representation in concept and artistic balance closely followed in by his earlier creation of the Coronet Liberty \$20.00 gold double eagle struck for circulation from 1850 thru 1907.

In 1904, a cent had the purchasing power of 29¢.



A 1904 Liberty nickel certified MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1904, the Philadelphia Mint struck 21.4 Liberty nickels, a drop of almost seven million from 1903. Despite this factor, survivors of the date are considered extremely common and fairly inexpensive through MS-65. The date usually comes well struck and examples certified MS-64 have recently dropped in price to a low of just \$165 according to PCGS' on line *COINFACT* with some prices-realized at recent auctions listed as low as \$120. When it comes to acquiring Liberty head nickels, this may be the best time for collectors to seriously consider adding some dates to one's collection especially within the certified MS-64 grade. The only dates that are scarce from this series are the 1885, the 1886 and the 1912-S. In 1904, five cents had the purchasing power of \$1.45.



A 1904 Barber Liberty Head dime certified MS-65 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

Unlike the five-cent denomination, the author's attempts to acquire a 1904 Barber dime turned out to be a frustrating experience. That year, the Barber dime was only struck at the Philadelphia and San Francisco mints. The mintage for the 1904-P was fairly large at 14.6 million compared with just 800,000 at the San Francisco Mint, so it was a no-brainer that if one wanted to procure a 1904 dime it would probably be the more common Philadelphia Mint issue.

At a numerous major shows, the author came across a number of common P Mint dates from the Barber dime series but none were dated 1904. Then, in April, 2015, at the GNA convention, he spotted a rather interesting bluish toned example housed in a PCGS-MS-62 holder and took a photo of the piece with his smart-phone. Observing the coin more closely, he noticed several light scratches appearing under the toning on the obverse and decided to wait a bit longer in the hopes of finding a better piece but as much as two years later, he found nary a one, and because the price of the MS-62 specimen was fairly low, he contacted the dealer by phone. The coin hadn't sold, so the seller agreed to send the coin via three day priority mail. It never arrived. After a number of attempts by both the seller and purchaser, even enclosing the digital photo to the postal service in the hopes of locating the item, the whereabouts of the coin remains a mystery to this day. It wasn't until 2017 while surfing the internet that the author came across a magnificent problem-free sharply struck PCGS MS-65 specimen of the 1904 Barber dime (*shone above*) from a nationally known dealer. According to PCGS' *COINFACT* online survey, while just 9 examples of the rare 1904-S dime have been certified MS-65 by PCGS, only 36 specimens of the 1904-P have been certified MS-65 by PCGS, not all that many. The 1904-P is a lot scarcer than previously thought to be.

In 1904, a dime had the purchasing power of \$2.91.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Collecting the US coins of 1904 (Excluding Gold)

(Continued from the previous page)



A 1904 Barber Quarter certified MS-64 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

In 1904, the Philadelphia Mint mintage struck 9,588,143 Barber quarters compared with 2,456,000 at New Orleans facility but a far greater number of 1904-O quarters circulated in proportion to the 1904-P issue with the result that in today's numismatic marketplace a certified MS-64 specimen of an 1904-O is \$1,000 more expensive than the 1904-P.

In early 2017, the author was surfing the internet and on a web site of a dealer known for selling eye appealing coins, he discovered a beautifully toned 1904-P Barber quarter graded MS-64 by PCGS. Nowadays, many US obsolete type silver coins certified MS-63 or higher appear as if they just left the mint; in other words, "white", but in all likelihood, they may have been dipped before being sent out for certified grading.

Before professional coin certification began in 1986, many a dealer or collector wishing to improve the appearance of a "raw" grayish seemingly uncirculated silver coin--used to carefully insert the coin in a silver-dip solution primarily to bring out its lustrous silver properties. The same tactic was applied in the case of motley toned specimens in order to determine whether the coin was really uncirculated or showed wear, even possibly revealing hidden scratches. In the case of the latter, artificial toning was suspected. Today, a naturally toned coin that is genuine and not artificially produced is often worth a premium because of its stunning eye appeal.

In 1904, a quarter had the purchasing power of \$7.27. Today it provides fifteen minutes for parking in some cities and towns.



A 1904 Barber half-dollar certified MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

Of the four denominations featuring Charles Barber's rendition of Miss Liberty, the half-dollar is the most resplendent. At 30.6 mm in diameter, Barber's Liberty Head/spread eagle displays the central devices on both sides of the coin in magnificent fashion. Fortunately for collectors, unlike the dimes and quarters, there are no "stoppers" among the thirty-five Barber halves issued from 1892 thru 1915 and the 1904-P with just under a mintage of 3 million is affordable thru MS-64.

The 1904 Barber half was struck at all three mints with 2,992,000 being coined at the Philadelphia Mint, 1,117, 600 at the New Orleans Mint and a paltry 553,038 struck at the San Francisco facility. The two branch mints are expensive, the 1904-S particularly so, leaving the 1904-P the only affordable option for the budget conscious collector. The coin displayed was acquired at an on line Heritage auction held at the Long Beach, CA Regional Show in Sept. 2017. Every so once in a while, an attractive coin for whatever reason, slips through the cracks and sells for a lower than expected price and fortunately for the author, this was the case here.

In 1904, a half-dollar had the purchasing power of \$14.50.



A 1904-O Morgan -dollar certified MS-63+ by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

1904 was the last year the Morgan dollar was struck at all three mints before being suspended until 1921 for its final farewell. In 1904, the Philadelphia Mint produced 2.7 million Morgan dollars, the New Orleans Mint, 3.7 million and the San Francisco Mint, 2.3 million. The opening of the Denver Mint was still two years away. Of the three active US Mints in 1904, many examples of the 1904-P had striking problems and the 1904-S Morgan dollar once thought to be common back in the mid twentieth century apparently underwent a number of melts and is considered quite rare today. A certified example grading MS-63 is listed at \$4,500 according to PCGS' *COINFACT* compared with just \$60 for a 1904-O in the same grade.

The 1904-O specimen shown directly above was acquired at our own Augusta Coin Club show away back in June, 2004. At the time, it sold for only \$38.00. After 1904 and until 1921, a collector desirous of completing a US denomination set excluding gold would require only five coins, the cent thru the half-dollar. In 1904, a dollar had the purchasing power of \$29.10.



A 1904 certified BU year set from the dollar down to the cent
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen to view details.]

Alaska Earthquake Medal

By Bill Myers



The Alaska Earthquake Medal, 39 mm
About the same size of a Draped Bust silver dollar

Numismatics is a hobby that includes so many different ways and different things to collect that everyone should be able to find an area that interests them. I have several areas that I concentrate my collecting efforts on, but a “shiny object” will periodically catch my eye and I will buy it. I recently obtained a medal out of a junk box that caught my eye. It introduced me to yet another area to consider collecting and that is earthquake medals. I will explain.

The medal is a matte finished brass and measures 39 mm in diameter. The obverse has an outline of Alaska with longitude lines and the Arctic Circle marked by dotted lines. Going through the center vertically is a widening crack representing the earthquake. At the bottom of the medal are waves hitting the central coast representing a *tsunami*. On the right is the inscription, **ALASKA/EARTHQUAKE/MARCH 27, 1964.**

On the reverse of the medal on the left is a seismograph that shows the tracing of the earthquake. The top of the seismograph is marked 530p and 535p as the earthquake was first detected at 5:30 PM and peaked at 5:36 PM. There is a scale marked 2, 4, 6 and 8 and the tracing goes below the 8. On the right of the medal reverse is **RICHTER/8.4.**

Significant damage occurred in Alaska due to the strength and duration of the earthquake. Scientists later determined that the true strength was 9.2. The highest earthquake ever recorded had been 9.5 which occurred in Chile in 1960. In the Alaska earthquake estimates ran from 115 to 131 people died from the earthquake. The damage was estimated to be \$112 million, (\$730 million in today's dollar value).

As yet, I have not been able to determine who designed the and minted the medal and why it was made.. It was struck with different designs and finishes. It appears the medals were created to commemorate the tragic event and not tied to raising funds.

I figured that earthquake medals would not be an extensive collection but an internet search revealed several Italian earthquake medals on ribbons. There were earthquakes that occurred in Messina (1908 and Sicily also that year, in Avezzano in 1915 and Friuli in 1976. I found that there were also medals for the famed San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 as well as the Armenian earthquake of 1988. I am sure others can be located with further research.

For now, I am satisfied with my one example and have no plans to start a new collection. I will leave that to someone else to tackle.

References::

The Day the World Sighed at <http://www.vision.net.au/-pwood/Oct10.htm>

Earthquake Tokens and Medals at https://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v12n27a17.htm

1964 Alaska Earthquake at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1964_Alaska_earthquake

Bill Myers is a retired Colonel with the US Army medical corps who was a former president of the Augusta Coin Club (2005- 2008) and served two stints during the Iraqi War during the first decade of the 21st century. He is also a prize winning numismatist based on several of his exhibits displayed at numerous major shows throughout the country. Before retiring to Tucson AZ in 2008, Bill was responsible for the club acquiring the PowerPoint projector we still use in our educational programs. (ED.)

Numismatic Stocking Fillers for Christmas

Here is a list of numismatic stocking filler suggestions for the holidays.

- 1) a 2019 silver eagle
- 2) a 2019 BU America the Beautiful quarters set
- 3) a 2019 proof America the Beautiful quarter set
- 4) a 2019 Mint set
- 5) a 2019 proof set
- 6) a 2019 silver proof set
- 7) a silver round commemorative from another country
- 8) a 2019 1/10 oz gold eagle
- 9) a US proof set struck in the birth year of a grandchild
- 10) a US proof set struck in the birth year of a son or daughter or spouse
- 11) a modern era US commemorative from 1982 to date
- 12) a modern era \$5.00 gold commemorative
- 13) a state quarters album
- 14) a state parks American the Beautiful quarters album
- 15) a modern commemorative set
- 16) a 2009 Abraham Lincoln centennial silver dollar
- 17) a 2013 5-stars general silver dollar
- 18) a 2013 half-dollar and silver dollar set of same
- 19) a 2014 National Baseball Hall of fame silver dollar
- 20) a 2014 Civil Rights Act silver dollar commemorative

Augusta Coin Club, Inc. Minutes of the Meeting November 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Sunrise Frill by President Steve Nix. We had 42 members and 78 guests present.

Secretary's Report:

The October 17, 2019 members were not read, a copy to be kept on file.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Stacey Plooster reported a balance of \$17, 806.28 was deposited into the club's checking account. This was the highest in the history of the club which was incorporated in 1959, 60 years ago.

Prize Winners:

Winners of the door prizes were David Chism and Ken Woodfield, both former officers of the club. Each won a 2019 silver eagle. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Tommy Rhoden,; (\$67.00).

2019 Fall Coin Show Review:

David Chism, Bourse Chairman
The show was held at the Columbia County Expo Center in Grovetown, GA on Fri. & Sat., Nov. 15 and 16. David Chism reported that despite the popular Whitman Show being held the same weekend in Baltimore, we still managed to sell 64 tables with 314 people attending the two day event. A steady hard cold rain kept the attendance down on Friday, the 15th but on Saturday many more people attended.. The show netted a profit of \$1,804.00 for the club. Thanks go out to Connie Nix who operated the food concession and all the members who helped man the welcoming tables in the hallway leading into the bourse room. Everyone at the meeting gave a big hand to David, Connie, President Steve Nix for promoting the show and those who helped out at the welcoming tables.

Show and Tell Session:

Jim Sproull displayed a miniature Saint-Gaudens 20 dollar coin replica minted in 1975 in 22 Karat gold. It is sold on-line for \$49.99.

Mac Smith displayed Roman silver denarius of Emperor Alexander Severus circa 222 to 235AD He was the last emperor of the Severus dynasty and the second youngest emperor.

The Program:

Arno Safran gave a PowerPoint program on both known and unknown the women who posed for Miss Liberty on US coinage. Arno started out with the Draped Bust dollar coinage that featured Anne Willing Bingham of Philadelphia as the model based on a portrait by Gilbert Stuart., the painter who is best known for his portrait of George Washington featured on our dollar bill. There were a number of unknown females, some of whom were based on the Britannia figure on British coins. Anna Williams posed for George Morgan for the Morgan dollar as Liberty facing right while Charles Barber is alleged to have altered Morgan's portrait of Anna Williams facing left on his Liberty Heads. Doris Doscher and Irene Ma McDowell posed for Hermon MacNeil's rendition of Miss Liberty on the 1916 Standing Liberty quarter. Appearing on both the Saint-Gaudens \$20.00 and \$10.00 gold pieces was Hetty Anderson, born in

South Carolinian the early 1870s who came to New York as a model and posed for a number of Saint-Gaudens statues. Her image later appeared as Miss Liberty on the two new gold denominations of 1907, the magnificent \$20.00 double eagle and Indian head \$10 eagle. Teresa de Francisci, a native of Naples, Italy posed for Miss Liberty on her husband, Anthony de Francisci's rendition of the Peace dollar, first struck in 1921. Like always, Arno's programs provide a bit of a history lesson of the United States. Thanks, Arno!

Models of Miss Liberty on our US Coin Design types



By Arno Safran

Old Business: and our upcoming Club Election for 2020

Nominating Committee chairman, Everett Price will be accepting nominations for club officers and board of directors at our December, 19 meeting, so if you are interested in a position or would like to nominate another member who is, please do so at our upcoming meeting.

New Business:

Member Bruce Getman from Hartwell, GA was elected as the new president of the South Carolina numismatic Association. Bruce sets up at our shows and is a dealer in foreign coins. At the SCNA annual convention held in Greenville, SC on Oct. 25-27. Fellow ACC member and club newsletter editor Arno Safran won the Numismatist of the Year award for 2019. So did both area clubs, the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club of Aiken, SC and the Augusta Coin Club. WE will celebrate our good fortune along with the upcoming election of officers and Board of Governors at our upcoming Dec. 19 meeting.

Area Shows Reported by Glenn Sanders

Franklin, TENN	Dec. 5-8, 2019
Greenville, NC	Dec. 14-15, 2019
The FUN Show Orlando, FL	Jan/ 9-12, 2000

The Club's Monthly Auction:

Glenn Sanders ran the auction (17 lots). John Mason, Everett Price and Shelby Plooster delivered the goods thereby speeding up the proceedings. Bid's director was David Chism.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Thomas Attaway*

The Interesting History of the \$5.00 Legal Tender “Woodchopper” Note



A Series of 1869 \$5.00 United States Note with first back design
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen w details.]

Another popular large size banknote with collectors of US Paper money is referred to as “The Wood Chopper Note”. On the face at the lower left is a portrait of President Andrew Jackson by Thomas Sully, a contemporary artist of the seventh US president and in the center, a pioneer family, the man holding an axe with his dog at his side engraved by Henry Gugler. What makes this particular series so interesting is its longevity as the face design goes all the way back to 1869. The initial series was printed on bluish paper compared to the whitish background that followed in 1875, 1878, 1880 and lastly, 1907. On the back appears the printed obligation if the first series which was altered beginning with the Series of 1875.



A Series of 1880 \$5.00 United States Note with second back design
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen w details.]

All United States Notes were legal tender for the numerical denomination appearing on the note. For collectors on a discretionary income desirous of acquiring one example of the type, the *Series of 1907* which was printed well into the 20th Century before the large size notes were discontinued in 1928 and are the least costly of the type, especially in certified grades where the cost of a XF045 example is \$425 and an Almost uncirculated AU-58 example priced at \$595. Uncirculated examples are all over \$1,000. Woodchopper Notes of lower quality sell for the mid \$200s but they have virtually no eye appeal and are not recommended.

The Christmas holidays are upon us so, as this issue concludes its nineteenth year of continuous publication, the editor would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to everyone reading this.

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